RAWR
Why won't you release the next chapter?!
Can I help you?
What can I do to help?
Fan Girl
It's not like YOU helped out any.
We don't have enough translators or editors
Find us some translators and editors and you'll have your next chapter
Visit our website for details
http://www.aerandria.net

Akaku Saku Koe
Volume 03
Chapter 011

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One more chapter to go!!! If these two don't get together and have a million babies, I don't know what I'll do!

- Lacaille

あかく咲く声

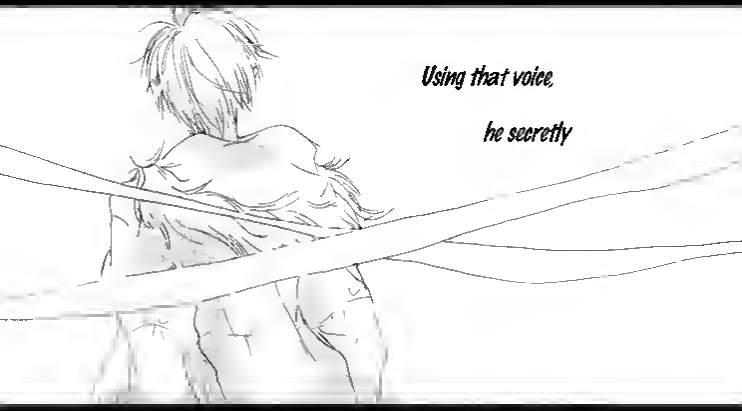
あかくさくこえ

Akaku Saku Koe

Chapter III

Karashima's voice is very pleasant to people's ears,

so much so that it creates an illusion as if it is whispering right next to your ear.



Using that voice,

he secretly

works for the police's special task force.

He is called the "Fox" for he puts a fox mask on the scene. Apparently, a rumor about him has started to go around the underground society recently.
However, most criminals lose consciousness before they ever have a chance to see him when they hear his word, "Sleep."
That power is so incredible that even the organization which asks for his assistance somewhat fears what he might do
That is why
I work as Kara-shima's "watchman" or "guard."

HEY, ISN'T THAT "FOX" OVER THERE?
?!
Dash
AH!
JUST DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
WAIT!
A RUMOR SAYS THAT "FOX" BRINGS DOOM.

Pant
Pant
Gasp
THAT SATOMI GOT CAUGHT MESSING WITH "FOX", THEY SAY. WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE HIM...
ISN'T HE ACTING STRANGE, THOUGH?
THIS COULD BE THE CHANCE TO CAPTURE HIM!
!!!
GRAB
THUD
CLUNK
!
DID YOU GET HIM?!
Clench
OK. DON'T LET HIM GO!

DON'T TOUCH.
SAKAMOTO,
IS KOKUBU-SAN YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
HM?
YOU TWO ARE ALWAYS TALKING ALONE.
AHAHA! NOT MINE
She's not?
Kokubu has been in love with him knowing his situation, but..
it seems like those two..

* "Kokubu"

Right after the first story, most of letters I received were from Karashima fans by far. Now Kokubu has as many fans as he does. She is often running in circles* (*or "thinking in circles" meaning easily confused, or thinking too much?) and I wasn't sure how readers would take her but her straight-forward devotion to Karashima seemed to have charmed many. Sakamoto and Aidomi's presence helped her too, perhaps. She didn't get to stay by Karashima too much in the story, but Karashima, after deciding on going out with her, would do his best to be together with her, I think.

I get questions about characters' profiles often but I don't usually set those up. However, here are some of things I kept in my mind.

Profile.
Born in autumn
Might have a younger brother
Has somewhat meaty legs
Popular among girls

The End

I SAW KAWAGUCHI-SAN GOT REALLY MAD AT HIM FOR SKIPPING THE LAST ONE...
Like a kid.
Was he?
HUH? YOU DON'T USUALLY TAKE THIS WAY, KOKUBU
KARASHIMA-KUN SHOULD HAVE GONE FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT THE HOSPITAL, SO I'M GOING TO CHECK ON HIM
That's good
IS THAT SO
UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY "CALL-IN"...
WHAT'S UP?
Nah,
NOTHING IMPORTANT
Kawaguchi-san is a work partner of Karashima, and one of few he has taken in.
BUT WHY HAS KARASHIMA NEVER BEEN COMFORTABLE AROUND ME?
WELL,
YOU DO HAVE A BIT OF A MEAN WAY OF TALKING, YOU KNOW
KARASHIMA CAN BE SOMEWHAT SNEAKY, DON'T YOU THINK?
THE REASON HE DOESN'T SAY WHAT HE WANTS,
THE REASON HE CAN'T CONVEY HOW HE FEELS. .
HE CAN BLAME EVERYTHING ON HIS VOICE

04

"Karashima"

He himself does not have too much of a charm, but having people such as Kokubu Sakamoto and Kawaguchi care for him makes him special. He recognizes his shallowness and tries very hard to discover how he should be. As his creator, I set up traps here and there to tease him a little, but he shook all of them off. His emotion was so numbed that nothing ever bothered him much. However it is in the future that he'll experience the stabbing pain of life since Kokubo has been melting some parts of him a little at a time.

Profile
Born in winter
Lives with his father
Worships Kawaguchi

YOU SPOIL HIM TOO MUCH, KOKUBU.
FUFU, MAYBE,
BUT I THINK KARASHIMA-KUN ACTUALLY
RELIES ON YOU THE MOST, SAKAMOTO-KUN
EH?
AH!
SAKAMOTO-KUN, OVER THERE... THERE'S SOMETHING WHITE ON THE GROUND.
HM?
WAH! KOKUBU?!
DASH
RUNS
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?
RUNS

KOKUBU?
SOMETHING FELL FROM THERE...?
WHERE'S THE ENTRANCE TO THIS BUILDING?
DASH
EH,
KOKU-BU...

GASP
It's Karashima's...
KOKU...
5
4
3
2
1
THE WINDOW ON THE FIFTH FLOOR...
NO TENANTS THERE
Empty floor
IT'S LOCKED
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
CALM DOWN, KOKUBU
WE DON'T KNOW IF ANYTHING HAPPENED OR NOT...
YOU KNOW SAKAMOTO-KUN...

KARASHIMA-KUN'S VOICE WAS A LITTLE STRANGE TODAY, I THINK
EH...
I MIGHT HAVE IMAGINED IT, BUT KARASHIMA-KUN LOOKED A LITTLE PALE...
I didn't notice it...
IN JUNIOR HIGH, HE LOOKED PALE SOMETIMES... IT WAS AROUND THE TIME HIS VOICE GOT DEEPER
KARASHIMA HAS THIS EXTREME FEAR OF LOSING HIS VOICE
EH, WHY
YOU KNOW WHY
DO YOU THINK KARASHIMA DOES THIS KIND OF WORK OUT OF GOOD WILL ALONE?

WELL, I'LL GET IN THROUGH THE DUCT AND TAKE A LOOK.
BUT...
STAY OUT HERE, KOKUBU.
IF HE HAS TROUBLE USING HIS VOICE, THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH.
I DON'T THINK THERE IS
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN HELP WITH.
YOU'LL ONLY BURDEN KARASHIMA WHO LOST HIS VOICE.
KOKUBU,
IF YOU AND KARASHIMA FELL INTO THE RIVER TOGETHER,
I HAVE TO RESCUE KARASHIMA FIRST
——

THAT'S MY JOB
I CAN'T TAKE YOU
DON'T MAKE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU TWO.
YEAH

.....
I GOT IT
OK I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
"BUT IF I DON'T COME BACK IN FIVE MINUTES, CALL THE POLICE."
THUMP
BONK
DASH
The broken window must be this way...

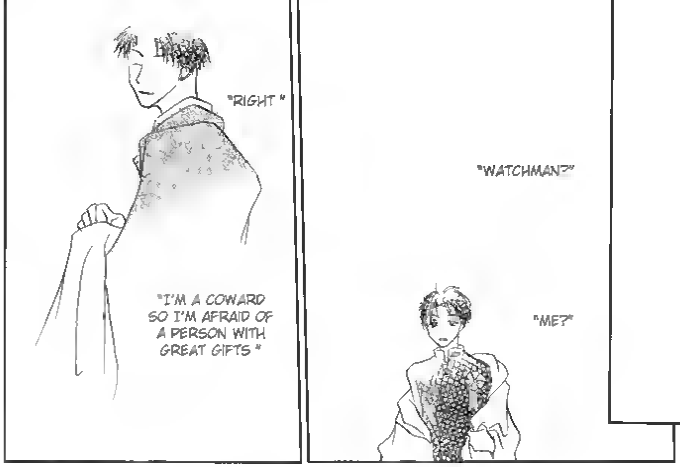
Had I said too much.
Why did I have to say something like that?
No.
Focus, focus...
Pant
Pant
FWOOSH
GASP

THUD
!
KARA-SHIMA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...
PULL
OW...
SHIT.
WHERE DID THAT FOX GO?
WE TIED HIM UP. HE CAN'T RUN AWAY THAT EASILY.
RUNS
RUNS
BOLT
RUNS

WE HAVE TO CATCH HIM.
So something is happening..
Depressed
It's time.
Got to go.
THIS IS BAD WHERE DID HE GO?
CLICK
Someone's coming upstairs..
CLICK
CLICK

You'll just burden Karashima more.
But there's nowhere to hide..
That's the last thing I want!!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
That makes meeting them here a bad idea
CLICK
Escaped..? Karashima-kun was captured?!
CLICK
CLICK
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S ESCAPED OUTSIDE, BUT THE MASK IS MISSING...
CLICK
CLICK
GULP
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
Clench

!
HEY! WAIT!
I got past him!
HEY!
CATCH THAT GIRL!
!!!



That's why I want you to protect him and keep watch.

If he ever strays to a wrong path,

make sure you don't miss that moment.

NO. It's against the law.
I'M IN A BIND, THEN...
GASP
SAKAMOTO, DO YOU HAVE ANY-THING TO CUT THIS WITH?
DID YOU LOCK THE DOOR?
YEAH, BUT WE'LL BE FOUND OUT SOON

SO... WHY ARE YOU HERE, SAKAMOTO?
DON'T YOU GET TOO CARRIED AWAY OR YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME LATER, SAKAMO-CCHI*
Be very sure before you do anything
ISN'T THIS A GREAT CHANCE FOR ME?! IN MANY WAYS!!!
To finally get back at you!!
T/N: KAKASHIMA IS CALLING SAKAMOTO IN AN UNUSUALLY FRIENDLY WAY, TO BE SARCASTIC
THE MASK WAS ON THE GROUND
IT FLEW AWAY WHEN I GOT HIT
ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL, I SAW A WANTED CRIMINAL ENTERING THIS BUILDING.
INSIDE THERE WAS A GROUP OF THEM WHO SEEMED TO BE HIS PEOPLE. I WAS WEARING MY UNIFORM, BUT HAD MY MASK, SO I WAS PLANNING TO PUT THEM ALL TO SLEEP BEFORE THEY SAW ME.
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
SO YOUR VOICE REALLY WASN'T WORKING, AS I THOUGHT.
HOW DID YOU NOTICE? IT ONLY CHANGED A LITTLE BIT.
Kokubo did.
IT WAS A LITTLE STRANGE SINCE THIS MORNING,
BUT I THOUGHT NO-THING SERIOUS FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS AT LEAST—

DON'T DO THIS KIND OF THING WHEN YOU'RE NOT WELL
SMACK
ANYWAY,
ACT MORE CAUTIOUSLY, WILL YOU?
Since you're not alone anymore.
THANK YOU
YOU SAVED ME
HO—
YOU'RE UNUSUALLY HONEST TODAY IT'S GIVING ME THE CREEPS

ISN'T IT OK ONCE IN A WHILE?
WHY JUST ONCE IN A WHILE?
BE NICE TO ME ALWAYS!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I CAN'T BE A BUDDY TO YOU
HUH?
SAKAMOTO, CAN YOU FIND A CHANCE TO GET AWAY?
EH?

RUINS
RUINS
I TRIED AND FOUND OUT THAT IF I SPEAK LOUD ENOUGH RIGHT BY THEIR EARS, MY VOICE STILL KIND OF WORKS.
THERE ARE SEVEN OF THEM. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THEM ONE BY ONE
EH?
I'LL STAY AND KEEP A WATCH A LITTLE LONGER
!!!
SWISH
?!
WHOOSH
Swing
ANNOYED
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
DON'T OVERRATE YOURSELF OR YOU'LL GET HURT.
BUT I'M WAY STRONGER, YOU SEE.
YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD YOURSELF.

I KNOW I ACTED RECKLESSLY,
AND I CANNOT GET CLOSE TO KOKUBU-SAN.
IF I LET THEM GO NOW, IT'LL BE TROUBLE FOR KAWAGUCHI-SAN AND OTHERS.
BUT THEY ALREADY SAW MY FACE.
REACH
GRSP
AHH, FOX...
WHO ARE YOU?!
JOLT

!!!
WHA—
?!
SLEEP.

.....
Limp
THE FIRST ONE.
Is it because I'm also a coward, I wonder?
SO...
and that makes me feel rather uneasy.
At a time like this, I can almost see through something dark at the other side of him.

I HAVE TO DO THIS
ARE YOU CRAZY? I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THIS!
.....
YOU'LL GO AROUND WHISPERING TO SIX OTHERS?
Some fairy
I'M NOT LIKE A FAIRY-TALE FAIRY
I NEVER ASKED YOU TO
WHAT?!
DASH
KARA-SHIMA...
HM?
!
EH?
JUST NOW... A VOICE...
.....

PANT
PULL
PANT
PANT
PANT
KARA-SHIMA-KUN.
KOKUBU-SAN, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I FOUND A CHANCE AND ESCAPED, BUT...
Couldn't find the exit
I GOT CAUGHT, TOO.
EH?!
AGAIN, I'M CAUS-ING YOU TROUBLE..
.. I'M SORRY.
NO, THIS IS ..
GAS

WHACK
THERE'S A POLICE CAR DOWN THERE.
DID YOU CALL IT, FOX?
?!
SO THE RUMOR IS TRUE.
YOU DO BRING US DOOM.
PULL!

KOKU...
LEAV..
BANG

THIS IS THE SECOND ONE.
SAKA-MOTO!
I'LL HELP YOU THIS TIME. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH AND GO HOME QUICKLY.
.....
THANK YOU

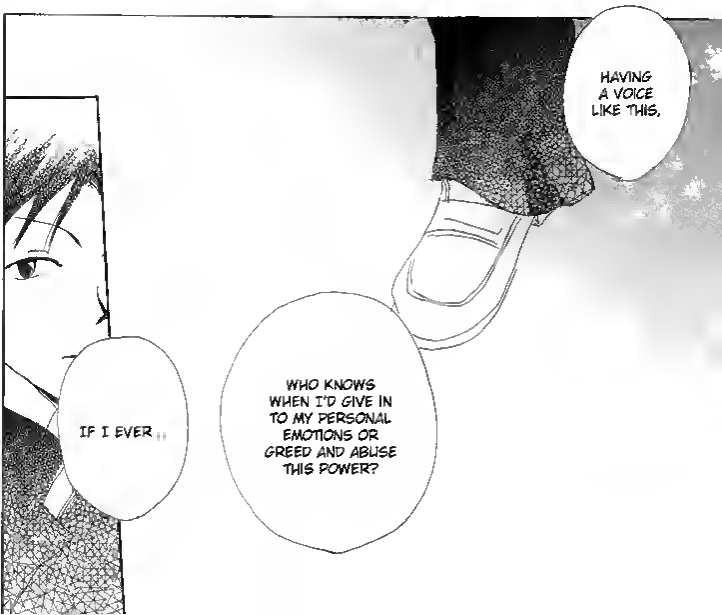
—SO WAS IT YOU WHO CALLED THE POLICE?
HM? NO.
I WAS SCREAMING WHEN I GOT CAUGHT, SO SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE HEARD ME AND CALLED
OK. HOW ABOUT YOU TWO?
WE'LL MAKE SURE THE REST OF THE FIVE WON'T ESCAPE
ANYWAY, HIDE IN THAT ROOM UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE, KOKUBU-SAN.
Karashima and I went around with Kori watching us.
WE'LL BE BACK SOON.
I lost the track of things and I don't remember much to tell the truth.
After that,

His voice change really was caused by a cold.

Karashima got a fever and collapsed

After the incident was over, we were all seriously scolded by Kawaguchi-san and the others.

and soon enough, he regained his usual voice.



...LOSE MYSELF TO THOSE DARK THINGS.
THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T BE "BUDDIES."
I WANT YOU TO ACT ON YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A "WATCHMAN" WITHOUT HESITATION, SAKAMOTO.
.....
...RIGHT.
Will there be a day that
I have to make such a harsh decision?
Ahh.
IT REALLY HAS BEEN ASSURING TO KNOW THAT
I'M UNDER YOUR SURVEILLANCE. I FEEL A LITTLE AT EASE THAT WAY.

SAKA-
MOTO-
KUN
KOKUBU
DO YOU KNOW WHERE KARASHIMA-KUN IS?
HE WAS OVER THERE
SORRY FOR SAYING MEAN STUFF THE OTHER DAY
EH?
I'VE BEEN RELYING ON YOU, SAKAMOTO.

KARASHIMA IS ABLE TO WORK WITH KAWAGUCHI-SAN BECAUSE OF HIS VOICE
THERE WASN'T ANY-THING ELSE HE COULD PUT HIS HEART INTO, SO AFTER KNOWING THE JOY OF BE-ING NEEDED,
HE BECAME MORE AND MORE OBSESSED WITH THE WORK
BUT RECENT-LY,
HE'S CHANGED A LITTLE, I THINK

BECAUSE OF HIS VOICE, HE CAN WORK WITH KAWAGUCHI-SAN.
BUT BECAUSE OF HIS VOICE HE CAN'T APPROACH KOKUBU-SAN EASILY
KARASHIMA IS ALSO STRUGGLING WITH HIS EMOTIONS
TO STAY WITH YOU, KOKUBU.
YEAH.
Karashima is selfish...

...but I'll let him rely on me

for a little bit more.

Somehow that's good for me, too, I think.

Ah, please...

Don't let them fall in the river together.